

## Message Text

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53

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

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O 271500Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4532

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GATT, EEC, IT, US

SUBJECT: ARTICLE XXIV:6 - EC PERM REPS APRIL 29 MEETING

FOR STR AND AGRICULTURE

REF: STATE 86686

1. AS INSTRUCTED PARA 6 REFTEL, EMBASSY CONTACTED MINISTRY  
FON AFFAIRS (MFA) REP CALAMIA (DIRECTOR, OFFICE EC-GATT  
AFFAIRS) AND MINISTRY AGRICULTURE DIRECTOR GENERAL DI CHIO ON  
APRIL 27.

2. MFA REP CALAMIA SAID GOI STILL HOLDING AT 60UA ON  
TOBACCO AND ONLY WITH GREAT DIFFICULTY MIGHT BE ABLE ACCEPT  
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COMMISSIONS PROPOSAL OF 55UA. HE STATED HE SAW NO RPT NO

POSSIBILITY GOI WOULD BE ABLE ACCEPT ANYTHING BELOW 55 UA.

3. CALAMIA INDICATED THAT, IF TOBACCO AS POLITICALLY SENSITIVE AS WE INDICATED, IF 55 UA MAXIMUM UNACCEPTABLE TO USG, AND IF PROBLEM IS THAT US EXPORTS OF FLUE-CURED VIRGINIA (BRIGHT) TOBACCO TO EC MIGHT IN NEAR FUTURE CROSS 280 UA THRESHHOLD BETWEEN CXT CATEGORIES 24.01 A AND 24.01 B, THEN PERHAPS IT WOULD BE BEST EXPLORE ALTERNATIVE SOLUTION IF NOT RPT NOT TOO LATE. HE STRONGLY IMPLIED THAT GOI COULD ACCEPT RAISING 280 US THRESHHOLD BUT EMPHASIZED HE WAS SPEAKING ON PERSONAL BASIS. EMBOFF SAID HE DID NOT RPT NOT KNOW IF THIS APPROACH WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO USG.

4. DI CHIO EMPHATICALLY STATED TO AGATT THAT GOI COULD NOT RPT NOT ACCEPT COMMISSION PROPOSAL AND THAT DISCUSSION OF RATE BETWEEN US MARCH 25 REQUEST AND COMMISSION PROPOSAL OUT OF QUESTION.

5. AMB RAISED TOBACCO PROBLEM WITH PRIME MINISTER'S DIPLOMATIC ADVISOR PETRIGNANI AT LUNCH APRIL 27 EMPHASIZING USG VITALLY INTERESTED IN ACCEPTABLE TOBACCO OFFER AND IMPORTANCE OF ACCEPTABLE TOBACCO OFFER TO SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF XXIV:6 NEGOTIATIONS. AMB ASKED PETRIGNANI TO CALL THIS MATTER TO ATTENTION OF PRIME MINISTER. PETRIGNANI PROMISED ALSO CALL PERMREP AT BRUSSELS TO SEE IF IMPROVEMENT POSSIBLE.

6. COMMENT: EMBASSY'S JUDGEMENT IS THAT GOI NOT RPT NOT LIKELY MOVE BELOW 55 UA, BUT THAT (AS MFA IMPLIED) 55 UA IS POSSIBLE. WE WILL TRY TO OBTAIN BETTER ITALIAN POSITION. WE HAVE MONDAY AM APPOINTMENT AT HIGH MFA LEVEL. IF SUGGESTION PARA 3 ABOVE UNACCEPTABLE, PLEASE LET US KNOW BEFORE MONDAY MORNING SO WE CAN DISCOURAGE ANY FORMAL CONSIDERATION OF THE APPROACH. VOLPE

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## Message Attributes

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